

HUMAN LIFE LOSSES RELATED TO THE EMERGENCE OF ISLAM

Introduction

The emergence of Islam and its subsequent expansion were transformative events in human history, leaving a profound impact on societies worldwide. While these events brought significant cultural, political, and spiritual developments, they also resulted in substantial human life losses. This presentation examines the human toll associated with the emergence of Islam, including conquests, religious conflicts, and related societal upheavals. The focus is on quantifying these losses to provide a deeper understanding of the consequences of these historical processes.

IMPORTANT

This is an analysis connecting Islam's past and present, it's not only about the numbers. The biggest concern is that Islam is still radicalized and causes huge problems in the world. The world must find a way to deal with this, not waiting until Islam becomes a peaceful religion, similar to all existing in the world. The number of human losses due to Islam must stop.

Part 1. BACKGROUND ON QUR'AN'S ORIGINS.

Islam holds that the Judeo-Christian sources were altered or corrupted over time and that the Qur'an is the final, unaltered revelation. Below is some background information on this topic.

The claim in Islam that earlier scriptures—namely the **Torah** (Tawrat), **Psalms** (Zabur), and **Gospels** (Injil)—were **originally revealed by God** but later **altered or corrupted** is a theological position rather than a claim substantiated by surviving historical manuscripts. Here's an analysis of the issue:

1. Islamic Perspective on Original Revelations

Islam holds that:

- The **Torah** (Tawrat) was revealed to **Moses** (Musa).
- The **Psalms** (Zabur) were revealed to **David** (Dawud).
- The **Gospel** (Injil) was revealed to **Jesus** (Isa).

The Qur'an asserts that these texts contained divine guidance but were later changed through human intervention, either through additions, deletions, or misinterpretations. Muslims believe the Qur'an was sent as the **final, preserved revelation** to restore the original monotheistic teachings.

2. Historicity of the "Original" Books

Judaism and the Torah:

- The earliest texts of the Torah (Pentateuch) in Judaism predate Islam by centuries. The **Dead Sea Scrolls**, discovered in the 20th century and dating to the 2nd century BCE, are among the oldest surviving manuscripts of Jewish scripture. These scrolls align closely with later Torah texts.
- While Jewish tradition holds that the Torah was divinely revealed to Moses, modern scholarship often sees it as a compilation of sources written over centuries.

Christianity and the Gospels:

- The canonical Gospels of the New Testament were written between **50–100 CE**, long before the advent of Islam. Surviving manuscripts, such as the **Codex Sinaiticus** (4th century CE) and fragments like **Papyrus 52** (2nd century CE), demonstrate remarkable textual consistency.

- Christianity has no historical record of a single "Injil" as described in the Qur'an. Instead, it regards the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John as inspired accounts of Jesus's life.

Psalms (Zabur):

- The Psalms attributed to David in Islamic tradition correspond to the Book of Psalms in the Hebrew Bible, which dates back to at least the 10th century BCE. There is no independent evidence of a distinct, "uncorrupted" Zabur separate from the Hebrew Psalms.

3. Evidence of Alteration or Corruption

Islamic theology argues for textual corruption but does not point to specific evidence predating the Qur'an to demonstrate how the original texts were altered. The idea of corruption (known as **Tahrif**) is rooted in theological concerns:

- In the Qur'an, passages like **Surah 2:75–79** and **Surah 4:46** imply that Jews and Christians knowingly altered or misinterpreted their scriptures.
- This claim has not been confirmed by manuscript evidence. Existing Jewish and Christian texts show strong continuity over centuries.

4. Are There Historical References to the Original, Unaltered Revelations?

No surviving **pre-Islamic manuscripts** or historical sources document the "original, unaltered" revelations as described in the Qur'an. The Qur'an itself does not provide a verbatim reproduction of these texts but claims to confirm their essence and rectify their distortions.

5. The Qur'an's Role

Muslims regard the Qur'an as the direct and final word of God, revealed in Arabic to Muhammad and **preserved without alteration**. The Qur'an does not reproduce the earlier texts but references key figures and themes to assert continuity with prior revelations.

Conclusion, Part 1

There is no historical evidence or manuscripts of the "original, unaltered" revelations referenced in the Qur'an that predate alleged corruption. Existing Jewish and Christian texts, supported by archaeological findings, show textual stability over time. The Islamic position on scriptural corruption remains a matter of **faith**, emphasizing the Qur'an as a corrective and ultimate revelation rather than relying on historical verification of earlier texts.

Part B. Human Life Losses Related to the Emergence of Islam

Human Losses During the Early Expansion of Islam

World Population (Log Scale) and Human Losses due to the Emergence of Islam (600 CE - 1800 CE)

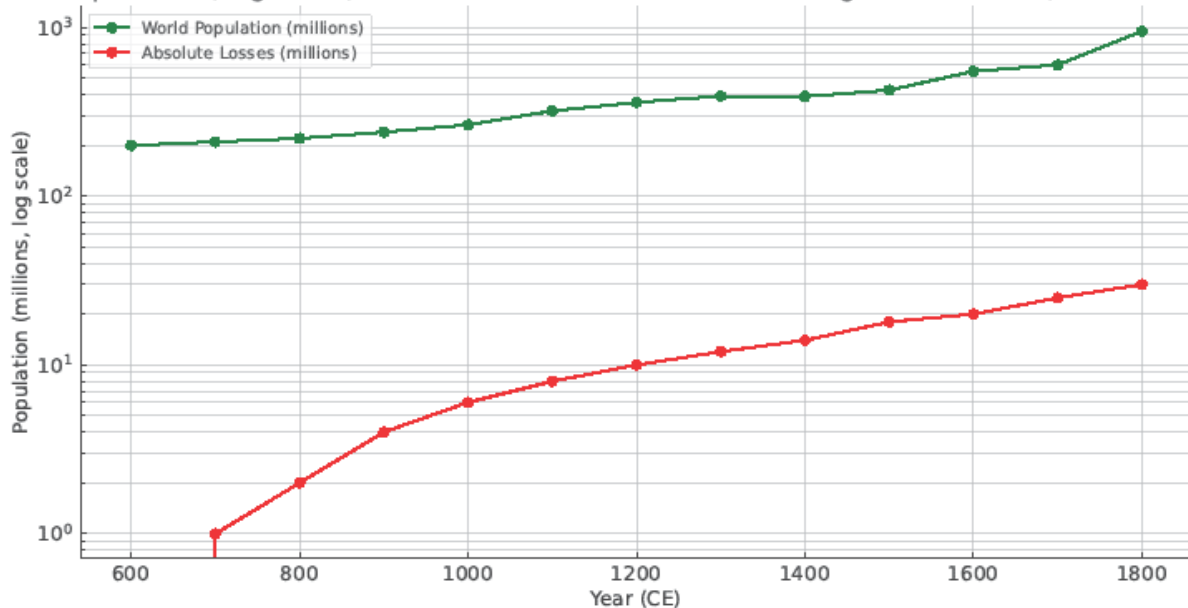


Figure 1. Estimated human losses associated with the emergence and expansion of Islam (7th–17th centuries) shown in relation to total world population at the time.

The graph illustrates that, because global population levels were significantly lower than today, the cumulative human losses represent a substantial proportion of humanity rather than marginal historical fluctuations. Estimates are approximate and intended to convey demographic scale rather than precise counts.

1. Early Islamic Conquests (7th–8th centuries):

- Following the death of Prophet Muhammad in 632 CE, the Islamic Caliphates embarked on rapid territorial expansion across the Middle East, North Africa, Persia, and parts of Central Asia.
- Estimated deaths: **10–20 million** due to warfare, sieges, and societal disruption.

2. Religious Persecution and Forced Conversions:

- As Islamic rule expanded, non-Muslim populations (e.g., Christians, Jews, Zoroastrians) faced varied treatment, including persecution and pressure to convert to Islam. While some regions allowed coexistence under taxation (jizya), others experienced violence and forced conversions.
- Estimated deaths: **10–15 million** over centuries.

3. Border Conflicts and Resistance:

- In regions bordering Islamic rule, such as the Byzantine Empire and Hindu kingdoms in India, conflicts frequently arose as resistance to Islamic expansion intensified.
- Estimated deaths: **5–10 million** during early conflicts.

Human Losses During Later Islamic Expansion

1. **Later Conquests (9th–17th centuries):**
 - Empires like the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal dynasties continued Islamic territorial expansion. This period saw intense warfare, including the conquest of Constantinople and campaigns in India.
 - Estimated deaths: **15–30 million**.
2. **Hindu-Muslim Conflicts in India:**
 - Perhaps the most significant source of loss, these conflicts involved invasions, massacres, and forced conversions under Islamic rulers such as Mahmud of Ghazni and the Delhi Sultanate.
 - Estimated deaths: **60–80 million**, with substantial civilian casualties.
3. **Sectarian Violence (Sunni vs. Shia):**
 - Conflicts within Islam, particularly between Sunni and Shia factions, have caused significant loss of life throughout history. From early battles like Karbala to modern struggles in Iraq and Syria, sectarian violence has been persistent.
 - Estimated deaths: **5–10 million**.

Aggregate Estimate of Human Losses

Combining all sources of conflict and persecution related to the emergence and expansion of Islam, the total human life losses are estimated at **110–170 million** over approximately 1,400 years. This includes:

- **Early Conquests:** 10–20 million
- **Later Conquests:** 15–30 million
- **Hindu-Muslim Conflicts:** 60–80 million
- **Religious Persecution:** 10–15 million
- **Sectarian Conflicts:** 5–10 million
- **Border Wars and Resistance:** 10–15 million

Key Observations

1. **Impact of Religious Intolerance:**
 - Religious motivations often intertwined with political ambitions, amplifying the human toll.
 - Intolerance and forced conversions contributed significantly to civilian casualties.
2. **Regional Variations:**
 - India experienced the largest share of losses, highlighting the intensity of Hindu-Muslim conflicts.
3. **Comparative Context:**
 - Similar death tolls can be observed in other major religious or imperial expansions, emphasizing the destructive potential of religious and territorial conflicts.

Conclusion, Part 2

The emergence of Islam and its subsequent expansion brought profound cultural, spiritual, and societal transformations. However, the human life losses associated with these events underline the heavy cost of historical conflicts driven by religious and political ambitions. Understanding these losses provides valuable insights into the broader consequences of such transformative periods in human history.

Including **Hindu-Muslim conflicts** in India substantially increases the total estimate of lives lost due to conflicts associated with Islam's expansion and religious intolerance to **110–170 million over 1,400 years**. This total includes deaths from:

- Conquests
- Persecutions and forced conversions
- Sectarian violence
- Border wars with other faiths.

As with all historical estimates, these figures are subject to uncertainty due to the limitations of historical records.